

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 02282 041720Z
ACTION AF-10

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FOR IOP/M

FOR IBS/PA, PASS IPS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

THE DISMISSAL OF A TOP CABINET MINISTER, HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER, AARON MILNER, EARLY THIS WEEK BY PRESIDENT KAUNDA, CONTINUES TO BE WIDELY COVERED AND ANALYZED IN THE LOCAL PRESS.

BOTH TIMES OF ZAMBIA AND THE ZAMBIAN DAILY MAIL BASE THEIR EDITORIAL COMMENTS TODAY ON THE REVELATION BY PRESIDENT KAUNDA YESTERDAY THAT HE DECIDED TO FIRE MR. MILNER BECAUSE THE FORMER MINISTER ALLEGEDLY FAILED TO COMPLY WITH "THE LEADERSHIP CODE."

THE LEADERSHIP CODE IS A CODE OF CONDUCT LAID DOWN BY THE RULING UNITED NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE PARTY (UNIP) WHICH AMONG OTHER REQUIREMENTS STATES THAT ALL PERSONS CLASSIFIED AS "LEADERS" MUST EITHER DERIVE THEIR INCOME FROM ONLY ONE SALARY, OR DECLARE ALL THEIR SOURCES OF INCOME AND ASSETS.

COMMENTING ON THE PRESIDENT'S REVELATION, THE MAIL EDITORIAL NOTES THAT THE CONSTITUTION OF ZAMBIA "GOES A CERTAIN WAY TO ENSURE
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THAT AT ALL LEVELS THERE ARE CHECKS AND BALANCE INTENDED TO CURTAIL EXCESSES AND ABUSES BY THOSE IN AUTHORITY."

"PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S RECORD OF RESHUFFLES OF OFFICIALS AT ALL LEVELS IS A CLEAR INDICATION THAT WHILE MINISTERS, MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND OTHERS IN RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS, ARE PUT IN THOSE POSITIONS TO WATCH AND ENSURE THAT GOVERNMENT POLICY IS

CARRIED OUT BY THEIR SUBORDINATES, THEY TOO, ARE BEING WATCHED FROM ABOVE BY THE PRESIDENT, "SAYS THE MAIL.

"RESHUFFLES, DISMISSAL OR CHANGES OF THOSE HOLDING HIGH OFFICE ARE USUALLY NOT A PLEASANT EXERCISE," THE PAPER DECLARES.

IT ADDS: "THE RESHUFFLES AND THE CONSTANT CLEANSING OF THE MINITERIAL AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE STABLES IS ALSO A SALUTORY REMINDER TO ALL OF US IN ZAMBIA THAT NO ONE SHOULD HYPNOTIZE HIMSELF INTO THINKING HE IS INDISPENSABLE."

THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA HAILS THE PRESIDENT S MOVE AS CLEAR PROOF THAT THE "LEADERSHIP CODE" IS NEITHER DEAD NOR AILING.

THE DISMISSAL OF MR. MILNER, SAYS THE TIMES, WHILE INVESTIGATIONS GO ON INTO ALLEGATIONS THAT HE HAS VIOLATED THE CODE, RELLECTS JUST HOW SERIOUSLY THE PARTY INTENDS TO APPLY ITS PROVISIONS.

THE PAPER FEELS THAT THE CODE IS THE PARTY S PRIMARY INSTRUMENT IN THE RE-DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH IN ZAMBIA.

THE TIMES EDITORIAL POINTS OUT THAT MR. MILNER S CASE IS MADE UNIQUE CHIEFLY BECUASE OF HIS CLOSE FRIENDSHIP WITH THE PRESIDENT. "THOSE WHO KNOW OF THIS CLOSE FRIENDSHIP KNOW THAT THE PRESIDENT DECIDED ON HIS ACTION ONLY AFTER A LONG EXERCISE OF PROFOUND SOUL-SEARCHING."

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BUT THE PAPER ADDS: "WHAT IS AT STAKE HERE IS, HOWEVER, NOT PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP, BUT JUSTICE AND FAIR PLAY AND -- ABOVE ALL -- THE NATION OF ZAMBIA."

THE MAIL REPORTS ON ITS FRONT PAGE THAT ZAMBIA RAILWAY HAS HIRED A SHIP TO BRING INTO THE COUNTRY SIX OF ITS LOCOMOTIVE ENGINES MAROONED IN ANGOLA DURING THE CIVIL WAR THERE IN 1975.

THE PAPER QUOTES ZAMBIA RAILWAYS GENERAL MANAGER, ANDERSON MAZOKA, AS ALSO SAYING THAT TALKS WERE UNDERWAY BETWEEN THE ZAMBIAN AND ANGOLA GOVERNMENT TO TRY AND RETRIEVE 777 RAILWAY WAGONS MAROONED AT LOBITO. ITEM USIS LUSAKA.
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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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BY PRESIDENT KAUNDA, CONTI
TAGS: SOPN, PINT, (MILNER, AARON)
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